Summoned Slaughterer
(呼び出された殺戮者)
Volume 06
Internal squabble of the castle

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Story Description:

Touno Hifumi was summoned

to another world, to be a Hero for a kingdom. Unbeknownst to the summoners, he's a kill-happy person who restrained his killer instincts with martial arts. Upon arrival he slaughter various knights and the mastermind of the event, the King. Unwilling to oppose this strong killer, the Princess let him go free. Thus start the fun life of travelling the world, unrestraintly killing any who attempt to kill him.

But first, lets purchase a pair of female slaves.

Original Story can be found here:
Link

Chapter 45: Killer Queen

“What’s the story with us gathering here, I wonder?”

“It is an announcement by Princess-sama and that Hero-sama, you know.”

“The knight-sama with the thin sword? I heard he played an active role again!”

“They say he repelled the large army of Vichy with a few soldiers.”

The topic of the noisy populace, if one had to say, it is one-sidedly focusing on the new noble of

Fokalore, Hifumi, rather than on the princess, but it was mostly due to Hifumi's orders that it became the talk of the town.

Because of the Third Knight Unit being nonchalantly mixed up within the crowd, although it would be announced by Princess Imeraria after this, the matter of Hifumi's involvement had been circulated already. This kind of information manipulation work was the first time for the Third Knight Unit, but because of Sabnak leading the operation after having received the request from Origa, it was effective to the degree of surprising all of the knight unit.

Sabnak is also slipping into the crowd.

“Apparently that knight of the thin sword is within the royal castle currently. I am told he has achieved amazing war results with Vichy as his opponent, you know?” (Sabnak)

While buying sweets at a stall, he spreads the topic as gossip.

“Ou, I guess he will again receive a reward from Imeraria-sama. He is a great fellow.”

While smiling at the good response of the old man manning the stall, he watches the reaction of his surroundings in a casual manner and understands that all of the people in this place, the voice had reached, are indeed listening carefully with great interest.

(Good grief, what a way of manipulating the hearts of people. It is a personality resembling the demons from fairy-tales.) (Sabnak)

While continuing the mission, Sabnak had a complicated feeling whether he should feel happy or frightened having accepted this kind of personality in the requested matter.

In the meanwhile, the Third Knight Unit checked everyone standing in front of the royal castle. “Soon the princess will make her appearance!” they repeated continuously in a loud voice.

Even as their voice become hoarse close to being mute, the crowd doesn’t cease to chatter.

“Oh, Princess-sama!”

With someone raising their voice, the commotion subsides. The knights having exhausted their throats ended up feeling depressed.

Having made her appearance on the balcony, it was Princess Imeraria.

And next to her was Hifumi. In a shadowy place near the back Origa could vaguely be seen waiting.

(Well then, what will happen this time?) (Sabnak)

Sabnak had already a feeling that it wasn’t about something possibly happening but rather about something definitely going to happen.

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Not being at the audience hall anymore, Imeraria had personally invited Hifumi to her office. Urging him into the reception sofa, a maid prepared black tea.

“So, it is about this time’s case, but... ” (Hifumi)

“The entire situation is my responsibility. Although the matter with Pajou is regrettable, I only implore you to not punish the other knight units and the people at the castle. Can you accept just this much... ?” (Imeraria)

Interrupting the topic Hifumi has started, Imeraria straight away apologizes like that.

“Ah, that’s fine already. Even if I acted violently now, it would only be a story of repeatedly dealing with shitty opponents anyway. That’s boring.” (Hifumi)

“In the first place, far from having a foundation in group combat, there isn’t even decent training in inter-personal combat, don’t you agree?” a worn-out dissatisfaction began to leak out from Hifumi’s mouth on the occasion.

Although it is strange, Imeraria was relieved that the standard of this castle’s knight’s didn’t raise Hifumi’s interest.

“Then… ” (Imeraria)

“Ah, I am understanding that this

time the responsibility is yours. The mastermind died. Since, rather than killing you, there is an even better task left for you, I won't kill you now." (Hifumi)

Even though his words aren't permitting a peace of mind in the least, her life has been spared.

But, I wonder what is that better task than killing me? Imeraria was uneasy. Even if he demanded her as a woman, she wouldn't be able to refuse. If he was really desiring this of me, I should try to take my own life, I think?

However, as she resolved herself by putting strength into her slender arms laying atop her knees, she decided to not give up her life no

matter what happens until her brother is safely crowned and until she discovers a plan to somehow calm the man in front of her.

But that plan was quickly denied.

“You will become the sovereign. Because I will support you by getting rid of the opposition, you will become the absolute ruler of this country building a powerful and sturdy state. Let’s say that this will be your atonement for this time’s affair.” (Hifumi)

“Such... ! Then, what about my brother... what will happen to Ayperos? In that kid’s surrounding there are supporters pushing for that kid to become the next king. If I were to aim at becoming the

queen, it will end up becoming a strife disregarding mine or that kid's intention." (Imeraria)

"I don't care. There won't happen anything if he is obedient, but if he opposes this, I will kill him." (Hifumi)

Hifumi's face showed that it wasn't significant enough for him to listen to such topic and that he would cut him down without doubt. It is an extremely calm face.

"However, even if I intend to succeed as queen, I don't have the ability to do that either... " (Imeraria)

Before summoning Hifumi, she was unaffected by these matters without

getting in contact with them and was simply called saint by the people. Compared to the time she thought I am only a decoration after all, she had now reached the point where she took politics into her consideration more or less.

But she hasn't received any education in becoming a statesman. As a result of that, she has lost the knight she trusted. Currently she is monopolizing this country.

"You are still young. If I am not mistaken, you are 14 years old, right? It is even fine to learn from a noble or the prime minister from now on. Besides, a statesman isn't a person that does something with their own ability. I believe that you will excel as statesman if you find

capable retainers and use them skilfully." (Hifumi)

Why is that man talking about politics to a royalty like myself? Notwithstanding my confusion, he is giving me words of consolation. Even if only slightly, my feelings are settling down.

However, this is definitely a mistake, she also understood.

"You aren't an incompetent person like your brother who is clinging to his parent, I think. For now it is fine to make a move in order to protect the country and save those around you. During that time you can forge strong soldiers. Ah, it is also good to send them to Fokalore for training! I will polish them without fail."

(Hifumi)

“... What the hell are you aiming for?” (Imeraria)

“By increasing the amount of strong people it will become a lot more interesting to oppose this world. People who have trained their techniques will oppose people boosting with raw strength. I want to increase the number of people thinking up refined schemes to kill people with sharp senses. I also want new weapons to be created for the sake of killing very efficiently.” (Hifumi)

While having glittering eyes like a boy talking about his dreams, to Imeraria, what Hifumi was talking about, was similar to the words of a

tyrant she had only read a bit in the past.

“Then, this world, this country will end up lapsing into chaos.” (Imeraria)

“I wonder whether that’s what will happen or not, it depends on what the people of this world want to do. In the world I come from, war advances technology. For the sake of victory people forge their minds putting a lot of effort into coming up with elaborate schemes.” (Hifumi)

Just what kind of blood-stained world is that? Imeraria became terrified by just imagining it. From what world had the hero been summoned?’

It was several young nobles that came and entered the room at that point.

“Imeraria-sama!” (Maid)

The nobles entering in a rude manner pushed the maid standing in attendance aside. Seeing Hifumi’s face they snorted as if scoffing at him.

“I was wondering who it was, but I see it’s the upstart who became a viscount recently, huh? But it seems you were skilfully buttering up to Imeraria. Now that we have arrived, there is no business left here for you anymore.” (Noble)

Furthermore, several of the other nobles also scold Hifumi.

“Imeraria-sama, the commoners are currently gathering in front of the royal castle. Something about receiving words from Imeraria-sama.” (Noble)

“The populace is... ” (Imeraria)

Imeraria turns her sight towards Hifumi.

“Ah, it is me who had them gathered. Let’s make a showy proclamation though you are leading this country only for a short time now, is what I think.” (Hifumi)

In place of Imeraria, who was lost for words, the nobles roared.

“Bastard, you are getting cocky trying to monopolize the national politics.” (Noble A)

“Moreover, what an attitude towards Imeraria-sama! Impermissible!” (Noble B)

While listening to the screaming voices of the nobles totally undisturbed, Hifumi stood up calmly, took out his katana and drew it.

At that moment a single noble had his head separated from his body.

“Men only raising their voices are superfluous. Only those holding the will to fight are necessary.” (Hifumi)

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As Imeraria looks out from the balcony of her office, the entire part of the castle is crowded with

people. Even the word ‘many’ is lukewarm in regards to the amount of expectant gazes, she feels.

Up until now she had gazed at the city from this balcony. She had addressed the populace, just like now, many times, but it was the first time for her to step on the stage while feeling this heavy-hearted.

Sporadically seeing the figures of the Third Knight Unit, she inadvertently wanted to call out to them to save her, but this was a situation she had brought upon herself. Although they might come running if she requested their help, she knows what will happen then.

Next to her Hifumi is standing. In

the back there is the former slave called Origa, who is now his attendant.

And behind her a number of corpses of the young nobles are scattered about. They have been young nobles not long ago. They didn't consider in the slightest that the upstart of low social status would oppose them or that he would really kill them.

However, that wasn't the reality. Without them noticing how kind the world had been to them, their end already came.

From now on the significance of social status will gradually vanish. It will become a world where ability will be the criterion and not

pedigree, Hifumi had told her.

Unable to imagine it well, Imeraria asked whether this world wouldn't become a place where the strong oppress the weak then, but Hifumi laughed and shook his head.

"It is the fetters called birth that label a weak person to remain weak. It will be a world without the binding of lineage making it possible for the weak to defeat the strong." (Hifumi)

Although Imeraria couldn't understand after all, she still grasped just one thing. The detestable judgement and the poor conclusion of obeying to something called difference in pedigree just because they are royalty or nobles,

Hifumi wants to raise the number of people being judged by their true strength.

This is an extremely frightening world, but Imeraria mustn't fail to protect the country within such world.

Although she has no power to fight herself, she is able to come up with something. Hifumi said. There are also people surviving by using their head even without resorting to brute strength.

Think, and ponder about it, Imeraria tells herself. As it is now, the contest to become the sovereign will begin between the Imeraria faction and the Ayperos faction. It will result in many people dying.

Even Ayperos or her mother might be amongst those.

“Everyone” (Imeraria)

With Imeraria starting to talk, the crowd’s noise subsided into silence and everyone listened to her words.

“Due to Vichy and Horant this country is in peril now. However, thanks to the great efforts of the newly inaugurated earl, Hifumi-sama, a big miracle has happened.” (Imeraria)

Ooh~ … with the people raising their voices in admiration, voices giving praise to Hifumi can be heard.

Sabnak’s voice was amongst them as well.

“They are getting elated easily… ” (Hifumi)

The voice of Hifumi, who had a forced smile, reached Imeraria’s ears.

Then she suddenly hit upon a good idea.

“But, expecting the fight to finishing flawlessly, knights ended up loosing their life due to my blunder! Even though it would have been fine to just leave things to Hifumi-sama, because of me getting unnecessarily involved, valuable lives were lost!” (Imeraria)

Exaggeratedly covering her face with both hands, Imeraria was convinced that this matter would

cause her popularity to drop. If she lost the support of the populace with this, it would become a setback in the plan of using her to manage the country.

Although this might cause her death, she didn't intend to live just to become her own brother's enemy.

Looking at Hifumi while concealing her face ... he was grinning.

"Now then, Ladies and Gentlemen! The story just now is the truth, but I think it will be wrong for me to blame Imeraria-sama for that!" (Hifumi)

Slowly surveying the crowd, he makes sure that everyone is

listening carefully.

“I, who fought in order to protect the country, feel obliged to forgive Imeraria-sama. That being the case, shouldn’t the knights, who had been deployed by Imeraria-sama for the sake of protecting us and the people of our country and died fighting towards that cause, receive our admiration?!” (Hifumi)

The crowd surged in response to Hifumi’s appeal.

Even though the knights of the Third Knight Unit, mixed amongst the crowd, were perplexed, it became a situation where the people couldn’t be controlled anymore.

“Imeraria-sama, me and all of you have to rack our brains how to protect the people, who are citizens of the same country as us! For this reason, think about it! It mustn’t be allowed for someone, who doesn’t attempt to do something and to accomplish something for this country, to take the throne! The only person suitable to stand up and lead us is Imeraria-sama!” (Hifumi)

With Hifumi’s words raising Imeraria to the top, the crowd is gradually becoming excited. Originally only being a person having popularity, with the hero approving of her conduct, the people welcome the mysterious feeling of expectation.

“I will make an oath here! I will support Imeraria-sama in becoming the queen. Together we will change this country into a country holding strong power! Everybody, please also support Imeraria-sama together with me!” (Hifumi)

The words of Hifumi, desiring for everyone’s individual support, had a powerful impact on the crowd. Until now it was strictly forbidden for them to meddle in politics, but just now the noble and princess in front of their eyes, admitting their own failures to the populace, said that the support of the people was indispensable.

As there were also those who applauded towards the princess, Hifumi’s praising voice became

even louder.

Even after Hifumi accompanying Imeraria disappeared from the balcony, the agitation of the people didn't die down for quite a while.

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"Now they have done it... "

The story of Hifumi supporting Imeraria in succeeding the throne spread in a flash within the king's castle.

Those of the prince faction are irritated by those news without hiding that.

Especially the high-ranking nobles, leading the faction, mistook the method as coup d'état performed in

the absence of the prince within their raging minds.

The prince's real mother, the queen, is amongst them as well.

"By no means I expected Imeraria to have such an ambition." (Queen)

Her appearance, enduring her fury while gritting her teeth with grinding sounds, is somehow blood-curdling.

Having been the queen so far, rather than Imeraria, who would be married off to someone anyway, she loved Prince Ayperos, who would succeed as king sooner or later, dearly.

Although she believed that Imeraria had understood this as well, her

facial expression is becoming even more grim due to the feeling called betrayal.

“However, Imeraria-sama is perfectly suited for the support of the populace.” (Noble)

“Something like the support of the commoners doesn’t matter at all! Haven’t you heard? The young nobles wanting to give the princess their advice were all killed! Even the conservative nobles won’t forgive this much oppression!” (Queen)

“If that’s the case, there is nothing left but to have Imeraria leave the stage eventually, it seems... ” (Noble)

“O-Oi... ” (Another Noble)

The speaking nobles, noticing that the princess' real mother, the queen, is present at this place albeit being hostile towards the princess, fearfully turned their gaze in the direction of the queen.

"It doesn't matter. It is that child that has betrayed me, as her mother, first." (Queen)

Declaring this decisively, the queen immediately raised her hand in order to prepare for giving a command.

"So that you aren't hindered by that man, kill that girl instantly at the time when she is sleeping in her bedroom! The most my maternal love allows is to ensure her passing away without having to suffer."

(Queen)

Seeing the pupils oozing with madness, the nobles of the prince faction bowed their heads all at once.

Chapter 46: We Will Rock You

Sabnak and Midas patrolled the king's castle upon Imeraria's order while armed.

The veil of darkness had already descended within the castle. Having only a minimal lighting by the magical lamps, the darkness further down the long corridors appears to be spreading forever.

"Something like patrolling with Midas-senpai, that's something that happened during training when I entered the Knight Unit, right?" (Sabnak)

It's been a while since they wore normal armor. Wondering what this feeling of discomfort was, Sabnak occasionally adjusted the armor's fasteners while making an effort to be cheerful.

"Can't you be a bit more silent? We don't know when it will turn into a battle." (Midas)

"But, a thief or such won't break into the castle, no? Those coming and going are thoroughly checked by the First Knight Unit and there are also some members of the Third Knight Unit making their rounds in the vicinity of the castle, isn't that so?" (Sabnak)

Midas sighed at Sabnak who was under the impression that the

castle's inside was safe.

"What happened today? Even you should know that, I suppose."
(Midas)

"Are you talking about the matter of Imeraria-sama announcing her intention to inherit the crown?"
(Sabnak)

"So, though the First Knight Unit usually is guarding this castle, why do you think we were mobilized? ... That's the answer to your question."
(Midas)

Discovering the figures of people ahead in front, Midas stops and draws his sword.

Before his eyes there are three members of the First Knight Unit

standing holding their spears.

“Going beyond this point is forbidden.” (Knight)

One of the First Knight Unit’s members said.

Midas remembered this man. He was an excellent knight amongst the Knight Unit. He heard that there were rumors of him being promoted to the rank of vice-captain soon. He is called Frederik (T/N: >> Furederikku <<). Talking about the skill in swordsmanship, Midas, being amongst the lower-middle ranks within the Third Knight Unit, was clearly at disadvantage at any rate.

But he can’t simply turn back while

saying “Yes, that’s how it is.”

“We have been summoned to Imeraria-sama’s room farther down this hall. Let us pass.” (Midas)

“Hah, if you are from the Third Knight Unit, why are you trying to sneak around and conceal yourself? In this situation it will become an achievement if we boldly kill you guys.” (Frederik)

Even though Frederik is laughing scornfully, Midas is watching the other party calmly.

“What is your aim… ? No, I know what you’re scheming. But to move this quickly.” (Midas)

“This was commanded by the lady possessing the most authority in

this country. It is impossible for anyone to prevent it. And, each of us, who protect the royal castle, believe that we are contributing to the kingdom's stability." (Frederik)

"Even the act of stealing the life of a young girl?" (Midas)

"We can't expose the country to danger just to protect a single life." (Frederik)

Towards Midas' inquiry, Frederik answered as if it was a natural matter.

"A girl's life... Midas-san?!" (Sabnak)

"It appears that Her Majesty the Queen is moving in order to remove Imeraria-sama. It seems that the

First Knight Unit sides with Her Majesty." (Midas)

"That's how it is. I don't recall your face, but that young fellow is called Sabnak or something, right? Since I am hearing that you are an excellent knight, I will promote you to the First Knight Unit, if you support us now." (Frederik)

As he heard the talk about being promoted, Sabnak got angry.

Originally, the popular names like First or Second are nothing more than the order how the Knight Units are organized. But, having a high percentage of high-ranking nobles as alumnae, the First Knight Unit, based on their showy defense of the castle, has many members

who look down upon the other Knight Units.

It seems that even Frederik hasn't escaped this custom.

Don't let him provoke you! Sabnak restrains himself.

"What a foolish thing. If you think about the people standing on Imeraria-sama's side currently, you should know that this is suicidal." (Sabnak)

"The fools are you guys of the Third Knight Unit. Letting such trash as that risen earl do as he pleases! Becoming enthusiastic about someone you don't even know where he comes from nor what kind of person he is, I wonder

what's up with that princess." (Frederik)

Slamming the spear's pommel onto the ground, Frederik's face, warping unseemly, revealed his rage.

"If it were me, I would have already gotten rid of that man! He is returning to his territory while those within the king's castle are shivering in fear where this man called Hifumi is concerned. Such unsightly behavior! Although the point of today's operation by Her Majesty's plan focuses on the time Hifumi isn't here, originally it would have been better to properly cut that guy to pieces straight from the front." (Frederik)

"Fufu" (Sabnak)

Watching the enraged Frederik, Sabnak ended up bursting into laughter unintentionally.

“What’s so funny!” (Frederik)

“No... I just think that it isn’t smart to underestimate Hifumi-san in such manner.” (Sabnak)

Which reminds me, if Pajou-senpai had been only a little bit more careful, she might have avoided dying. Remembering her face, Sabnak’s laughter changed into a bitter smile.

“Wha...” (Frederik)

Frederik’s angry voice, trying to inhale, was stopped by the shuriken stuck in his neck.

Owed to the overwhelming force, Frederik's head was thrown back as he collapsed while spurting out blood.

"Uwa?!" (Knight A)

"Frederik!" (Knight B)

His colleagues standing on both sides quickly caught his falling body, but they knew that he had already passed away.

"This is... " (Sabnak)

Thinking it was Hifumi, Sabnak and Midas turned around and saw Origa, whose face had become white and expressionless due to overwhelming fury.

"... I decided to come and have a

look since it became noisy, just to hear this filthy mouth slandering Hifumi... !" (Origa)

Origa, without paying Sabnak and Midas any attention, was looking at the surviving knights of the First Knight Unit. Midas, judging it to be dangerous, escaped by dragging Sabnak to the side of the corridor.

"Bastard! Who are you!" (Knight B)

One of the knights approached Origa pushing out their spear, but she didn't move while holding out her right hand in front.

Without understanding what she was trying to do, at the moment he stopped to fix his spear stance, Origa removed the soldier's head

from the neck with her wind magic.

“There is no need for me to tell scum like you guys my name.” (Origa)

Murmuring this in a small voice as if it is fine for them to not hear it, her line of sight turns towards the remaining knight.

“Hasn’t that girl somehow gradually turned more scary from before?” (Sabnak)

“Shh! Be quiet!” (Midas)

Without it being clear whether she didn’t hear Sabnak’s words or decided to ignore them, Origa’s gaze didn’t waver.

“D-Don’t come closer!” (Knight A)

After seeing that she didn't use the wand to display her magic, he judged it to be an unknown attack and readied his spear while slowly retreating.

Even so, without stopping her feet, just as he thought so, Origa took out a rod, that was a little longer than 30 centimeters, from her bosom and gracefully held it in one hand.

It was an iron folding fan, though it was something that no one in this world had seen before.

Everyone, who were at the scene, couldn't contain their feeling of perplexity due to the unknown metal craftsmanship. Origa caressed the iron-ribbed fan with

rapt attention.

“She took out a strange thing once again... ” (Knight A)

These words were prohibited.

“Strange... ? You are calling this iron-ribbed fan I received from Hifumi-sama strange...” (Origa)

With her green pupils shining darkly, Origa briskly walked up to the knight and swung her folding fan from the right hand side to the left.

“Ubeh... ?” (Knight A)

Without reacting to Origa’s movement, the knight was bewildered as the flesh of his cheek was torn off completely.

“Insulting this weapon is like insulting Hifumi-sama. Apologize by dying.” (Origa)

With a sound of *bashitto* she folded up the iron-ribbed fan and stabbed it into the throat of the knight who was writhing as he held his face.

The fallen knight spurt out blood from his mouth with a *buwa* and died without even twitching. Imitating Hifumi, Origa retrieved a paper from her breast pocket and gently wiped the iron-ribbed fan clean before putting it back with great care.

She turns her gaze, which had become only slightly tender, towards Midas and Sabnak.

“Midas-san, Sabnak-san, what do you think about the weapon you have seen just now?” (Origa)

“I-It seems e-easy to use. I-I think it i-is a fine w-weapon.” (Sabnak)

“T-That’s r-right. I-I think it s-somewhat matches y-our elegance.” (Midas)

As the two desperately lined up words of praise in panic, Origa smiled sweetly.

“Thank you very much. As thanks I will pretend to forget about your impolite comments from before.” (Origa)

(She heard them!) (Midas)

Disregarding the frozen Sabnak

with his forced smile, Midas bowed towards Origa.

“You have my thanks for saving us. Had it stayed like that, we wouldn’t have had a chance of victory.” (Midas)

“There is no need to thank me. I just came looking for you guys following Hifumi-sama’s instruction.” (Origa)

“Us?” (Midas)

“Yes, I am to tell you, “From now on until dawn, not a single person is allowed to leave the castle.” I shall help you with this task as well.” (Origa)

“Just what the heck…” (Midas)

“It’s nothing but a little hunt within the cage.” (Origa)

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It was 10 elite soldiers picked from among the First Knight Unit who broke into Imeraria’s bedroom.

Shoving the maid standing in front of the door on standby by brute force aside, the knights clasped their spears tightly and quietly opened the door. They glared at the bed with its canopy attached situated in the middle of the room you wouldn’t consider to be a bedroom due to its sheer degree of vastness.

Their mission is to kill the girl sleeping there currently. While

persuading themselves that it is for the sake of the country, they are slowly approaching the bed.

“Prepare yourself!”

Wholeheartedly not wanting to watch the moment the young lady dies, they are continuing to stab their spears one by one at the bulging bed cover from the outside the thin curtains of the canopy.

As they sensed the spears penetrating flesh, feelings of guilt were planted within the knights, but they suppressed their hearts by reminding themselves that this was a just cause.

“How regrettable”

As a katana protruded from the

other side of the curtain, the carotid artery of the neck of one of the knights was severed.

Within the downpour of blood Hifumi comes out from within the curtains while swinging his katana.

In his left hand he is holding the corpse of a woman riddled with spear holes. He tossed it in front of the faltering knights. At the time they comprehended that this was the corpse of the queen, the knights couldn't do anything but lose their presence of mind unable to swallow the current state of affairs.

However, there was only one single knight amongst them who was different.

“All hands, get ready! Don’t get panicked in front of the enemy!”

Due to the roar in a thunderous voice for the knights to not let down their guard and prepare themselves, the other knights fixed their spear stance having life return into their eyes.

“Hee… ” (Hifumi)

With a completely delightful facial expression Hifumi descended from the bed. He kicked the queen’s corpse to the side in order to put it out-of-the-way.

“I’d like you to not obstruct us, Earl Tohno. Where is Imeraria-sama?”

“Who gives a damn about something like that. What is your

name?” (Hifumi)

“I am called Deumus, vice-captain of the First Knight Unit. Earl Tohno, please, I’d like you to tell us the whereabouts of the princess” (Deumus)

“Even though your master has passed away over there?” (Hifumi)

“You still want to go on?” hearing this from Hifumi, Deumus clenched his teeth.

“We have sworn our lives to the duty of Prince Ayperos to become king. For that reason we can’t stop here … If you plan to hinder us, I will have you die.” (Deumus)

“If that’s the case, let’s get going.” (Hifumi)

Grabbing his katana with both hands, he stepped forward with his left foot by half a step in order to hide his back.

On a first glance this can be seen as defenseless stance, but Deumus isn't able to discover a gap he can thrust his spear into. As the katana doesn't enter his visual field, he can't fathom in what way it might approach him.

(This much...) (Deumus)

Deumus doesn't know anything about Hifumi's strength except what he read in the reports. But now he experiences it for the first time himself.

In contrast to Deumus, who is

attempting to close the distance between them impatiently, Hifumi sets up calmly.

Another knight couldn't stand the tension.

"U-uooo!"

Against the knight releasing fierce thrusts, Hifumi cut off the spear diagonally in a flash as if scooping it up. And moreover, as he was using the blade to slash it diagonally from the shoulder he severed the knight's foot from its root.

"Ugiyaaaaaaa!"

The one-legged knight, rolling around in circles, died before long due to loss of blood.

“What was that just now... ?”

Someone mutters.

Deumus barely managed to watch the sword’s path, but the others didn’t grasp what happened. Without even taking a single step, Hifumi executed two slashes within a person’s breath visible only by him turning his waist.

“Come, come, come on, there are still a lot of you left!” (Hifumi)

Hifumi, returning to his previous stance of halving his left foot in front, says in a jesting tone.

“If you lot don’t get going ... I will.” (Deumus)

Just that they would instead become

a hindrance to Deumus, the other knights retreated to the rear.

Conversely, making only one step forward, Deumus, lowering his posture, prepares his spear.

“You are dangerous. I will end it here even if it means stabbing each other.” (Deumus)

“That’s good. It’s fine for you to try.” (Hifumi)

“Nuu!” (Deumus)

The first to move was Deumus.

Equal to the speed of Hifumi’s katana just now, Deumus drives the spearhead into Hifumi’s face.

Hifumi shifts his stance by drawing

back the left foot a half step. He moves back until Deumus' attack just barely doesn't reach him. Without changing his posture, he cuts upwards with his katana.

"That's a technique I have seen before!" (Deumus)

Swiftly pulling back his spear, he deflects the katana with the spearhead and used that force to thrust the spear a second time.

While drawing the katana back to himself, Hifumi averts the spearhead coming for him from the side to the outside.

After this instant of offence and defence, Deumus took his distance.

"You are well skilled. You are using

your spear quite proficiently. But your manners aren't very good."
(Hifumi)

Deumus doesn't answer.

Changing his posture, Hifumi adopts a stance of directly aiming at the eyes with his katana.

"There is still a hopeless guy I haven't killed yet. I will finish it soon because I am sleepy."
(Hifumi)

Before Hifumi finished his words, Deumus drove his spear aiming at Hifumi's heart.

As Hifumi doesn't show any intention to avoid it, Deumus is confident in his victory.

(Gotcha!) (Deumus)

But, Hifumi's body, which should be turned to the front, is turning sideways before Deumus noticed it. The spearhead passes by through empty air on the left side in the space between the arms

And, separating his left arm, Hifumi, holding the katana in his right hand, pinned down the side of the spearhead and faced Deumus directly.

"Pinning down the spear by holding it between your arm and body... How absurd..." (Deumus)

Piercing the abdomen through the gap in the armor, though blood was leaking out from his mouth,

Deumus showed a face of astonishment rather than pain.

“At best you are able to push or pull before it snaps. There is no problem to get in-between that.” (Hifumi)

“What a guy...” (Deumus)

As Deumus crumbled down, Hifumi shook off the blood of his katana. The remaining knights, without knowing what would be the right thing to do, recklessly came rushing in as they wanted to at least kill the enemy in front of them.

“Too slow.” (Hifumi)

Even though there were eight knights left and although they wore proper armor, their throats were cut sequentially with a minimum of

movement. One by one they dropped into the pool of blood they had produced themselves.

Changing all of the knights into corpses, Hifumi, returning the katana into its scabbard and inhaling the smell of blood, laughed.

“That was fun.” (Hifumi)

Let’s go looking for fellows who show some kind of reaction. Hifumi had taken a liking to this world albeit only slightly.

Chapter 47: Not Meant For Me

Having put 10 knights to the sword, Hifumi is sheathing the katana in the scabbard on his back very contentedly. Imeraria timidly made an appearance from within the shadows of the bed.

Although he senses her movements, Hifumi doesn't even look at Imeraria as if not caring about her existence at all.

As she shifts her line of sight to the corner of the room, where Hifumi had sent her mother flying before, she saw the queen's corpse.

Observing her mother having died while displaying a reproachful facial expression, Imeraria was confused whether it was fine to mourn or to rejoice.

Looking at her own room ornamented with splatters of blood, she is re-thinking how it came to this.

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Together with Hifumi, Imeraria ended up announcing her intention of inheriting the crown in front of the populace. The very same day, after quickly finishing her work, she returned to her bedroom.

“Why has such thing... ?” (Imeraria)

Changing into a light red night-

gown, Imeraria sat down on the bed and heaved a long sigh.

With a terribly worn-out mood, she feels her heavy shoulders.

“I wonder what the hell he is thinking?” (Imeraria)

Imeraria still can’t comprehend Hifumi’s thought process.

Obviously the reason isn’t that he wants to become the king. Going by the information from the Knight Unit, it seems that he has ended up entrusting the administration of his territory, with only a few policies, to the civil officials. Furthermore, even reducing the overall tax rate and reaching the point that the territorial soldiers are close to the

masses, his reputation amongst the majority of the populace appears to be good.

Although he is using a lot of funds for the development of weapons and such, it isn't like he is particularly living in luxury. If he has spare time, he will look around strolling through the city. Many people have witnessed him doing such things as practicing his swordsmanship.

"He is a feudal lord who is fair and kind towards the populace and doesn't shirk away from putting in effort for the sake of protecting the people."

That seems to be the evaluation being held by many people about

Hifumi.

As that assessment is totally different from the one she came to see and hear about, Imeraria can't suddenly believe that this is the same person they are talking about.

"Do you hate the royalty and nobles?" (Imeraria)

Even though she pondered about that, she had also received a report stating that he had killed a considerable number of the slum's inhabitants. Simply put, without concerning himself about social status and official position, there doesn't seem to be any deciding factor but only whether or not one is hindering him. That summed it up entirely.

She is at her wit's end as she thinks about it.

Having obtained the support of the masses, there is no one else as difficult to deal with as that lunatic. If she removes him unskillfully, she will end up being viewed as villain here.

The lost Imeraria's ears pick up the sound of knocking.

"What's the matter?" (Imeraria)

There was a maid waiting for orders in front of the bedroom, but she entered nervously.

"That is... Earl Tohno has come..." (Maid)

Towards the baffled maid, Imeraria

sighed for the umpteenth time today.

“Visiting the room of an unmarried woman at night-time... It doesn’t matter, please let him through.” (Imeraria)

“However...” (Maid)

The maid seems to be worrying about the danger and rumors of letting a man enter the princess’ bedroom, but Imeraria doesn’t care about Hifumi’s lack of common sense anymore.

“There is no problem. It still can be called good that he didn’t just come and enter forcibly.” (Imeraria)

“That’s a reprehensible way of talking about someone.” (Hifumi)

Pushing the maid aside, Hifumi entered.

He is carrying some large package on his shoulders.

“Receiving my ill manners is something called minimal resistance. And? What might that be?” (Imeraria)

“Before that.” (Hifumi)

Interrupting Imeraria’s words, Hifumi turned around to the maid.

“Get in touch with the Third Knight Unit and tell them to come here. Let’s see... Call out to the nearby Midas and tell him to come here armed for the sake of guarding.” (Hifumi)

As the maid is darting her eye's about due to suddenly receiving orders, Imeraria commanded her to do as she was told.

With the maid leaving the place after bowing, Hifumi tosses the package, he was carrying, on top of the bed. The long and narrow object was thrashing around on the bed.

"...!"

"Oh, it woke up." (Hifumi)

"This... is it a living creature?" (Imeraria)

Imeraria instinctively jumped back from the bed and hid herself in Hifumi's shadow.

"There isn't any need to be so

scared. It's your mother after all, I guess?" (Hifumi)

Although the queen's hair was disheveled and her clothes were stripped off, she was glaring at Hifumi in a condition of having her hands tied behind her back and a gag forced into her mouth.

"M-Mother?!" (Imeraria)

As Hifumi removed the gag, a scream burst out from her.

"Behaving in such manner towards me, do you really think this will finish peacefully!" (Queen)

"Hi-Hifumi-sama, why did you do such a... ?" (Imeraria)

Imeraria grabbed Hifumi's arm. The

queen changed the target of her verbal attack, of what she thought about this treatment, towards her daughter.

“Imeraria! I never expected you to use such a sort of way! To seduce a man into doing something like binding your mother... Finally you showed your true feelings because you are aiming for the crown!” (Queen)

“Mother...” (Imeraria)

Due to her mother scowling at her with a bloodcurdling facial expression, even Imeraria lacks any words.

“That’s how it is. Somehow this fellow wants the prince to succeed

the crown one way or another rather than Imeraria." (Hifumi)

The queen snapped once again at Hifumi, saying this as if it is someone else's problem.

"Be quiet! You king-slaying, seriously criminal, person! You are a fool pretending to be a noble without even having officially been conferred the title by the king!" (Queen)

"Is that so?" (Hifumi)

"... If it's the kingdom's law, then there will be no problem with being appointed to the rank of a territorial noble. As for the usual procedure, only the king would be able to do that, but..." (Imeraria)

“In other words, her criticism is irrelevant.” (Hifumi)

Although Imeraria believed Being a king slayer isn’t wrong, I think, since it simply was “revenge” for Hifumi, he apparently doesn’t believe this to be a wrongdoing.

Well then, Hifumi’s story is: while considering how to deal with the current problem for the succession of the throne, the prince faction was in the process of setting up an ambush within the castle. He found out that the queen had ordered the First Knight Unit to assassinate Imeraria. Therefore, once the entire knight unit exited the room, he restrained the queen.

Without believing in this story,

Imeraria looked at the queen, but the queen didn't deny it.

"It is only appropriate for Ayperos to succeed the throne. Imeraria, above inviting someone, who plunged this country into a crisis, to come into the castle, you are unforgivably scheming to usurp the country itself!" (Queen)

Imeraria felt as if she had been plunged into darkness.

For the sake of protecting the peace of this country, she is desperate. So that the country doesn't scatter into pieces due to losing its king, she is frantically thinking. Even though she should have acted.

After her mother had collapsed, for

the sake of her yet youthful and helpless brother, she somehow got until here while also struggling.

“So, what will you do?” (Hifumi)

Imeraria came to her senses due to Hifumi’s question.

“What, as in… ?” (Imeraria)

“At present it feels like she is your enemy rather than mine. Since it will also be troublesome if she keeps yapping about usurpation, I brought her here for the time being.” (Hifumi)

Rather than getting angry she is astonished about Hifumi pridefully being concerned about her.

“Such thing like being an enemy…”

(Imeraria)

“This fellow wants to kill you. How can you not call her an enemy?” (Hifumi)

“That is...” (Imeraria)

Suddenly and forcefully drawing his face close, Imeraria can’t continue talking.

“Also, if you keep her alive as is, I am certain it will turn into a domestic conflict between your and the prince’s faction within the castle. The confrontation will continue on the surface and behind the scenes. The ones receiving the brunt of that will be the maids and menservants, or in other words, the populace.” (Hifumi) (T/N: The devil

whispers...)

Speaking towards Hifumi's conveniences, if there are fewer operating the country, it will also become easy to control the law, to sum it up in a sentence. But he purposely left that unsaid.

"If this fellow survives, she will become the prince's supporter one way or the other and be a hindrance to me, I am sure. If this fellow doesn't exist, it might be possible that the prince becomes obedient as well. In that situation, I am confident that you will be able to establish the stable political system you desire." (Hifumi)

Imeraria pondered about it while chewing her lower lip to degree of

blood running down. It becomes an escape in that way and after consolidating her thoughts, she squeezed out her voice.

“It is impossible for me...” (Imeraria)

The queen’s expression displayed that this was only natural, but before long her face turned pale due to the following words.

“Therefore, I want to leave the decision to Hifumi, but...” (Imeraria)

“A-Are you abandoning your mother!” (Queen)

Who was it that aimed at whose life first? Imeraria thought. It was a mortifying decision, but she was

able to consent with her current words.

“Then I won’t hold back.” (Hifumi)

Hifumi drew his katana and struck the thin neck of the queen, laying on the bed, with the back of his katana.

Having her neck broken, the queen died with wide opened eyes.

“I wonder if that really was a good thing... ?” (Imeraria)

“I think it is still too early for you to decide that.” (Hifumi)

Hifumi lifted Imeraria at her waist and threw her down on the opposite side of the bed.

“Kyaa!” (Imeraria)

Hiding the queen’s corpse within the futon, he shuts the canopy’s curtains.

“Stay hidden for a while. There are several people coming this way here. Probably it is the lot from the First Knight Unit, coming to kill you.” (Hifumi)

“Midas’ group didn’t make it in time, huh?” Hifumi grumbled.

“Such…” (Imeraria)

Usually the knight unit is bound to protect her, having been told about them coming to kill her was something she couldn’t yet comprehend within her mind.

“Because I will be protecting you for now, desperately think about how you want to change your surroundings and what would be fine to do after this. The matter about inciting Pajou; the intention was good but the plan to execute it was inept.” (Hifumi)

Being abruptly praised, Imeraria floated a facial expression of suspicion.

“Without that the degree of backbone, it will be impossible for you to survive the wars starting after this. I wonder whether you want to exact your revenge upon me one day? If that’s the case, don’t trip at this place. I want you to show your desperate will to survive until your blade reaches me.”

(Hifumi)

Clenching her teeth with a grinding sound, Imeraria fixed her eyes on Hifumi.

“Yes, that’s fine. Anything’s fine, even anger. A like-minded person, having a volition, will certainly clash with me. There has to be a meaning in killing each other. It has to be enjoyable.” (Hifumi)

Hifumi, pretending to not see Imeraria, drew his katana and ecstatically looked at the hamon. (T/N: Hamon: The visual effect created by the hardening process of the blade. Source: Wiki)

The footsteps of several people stop in front of the room.

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When Midas and Sabnak arrived at Imeraria's bedroom, after struggling along the way, it was the exact moment when Hifumi left the room.

Hifumi, fighting with an enemy that gave some kind of resistance, had a truly refreshed facial expression even though it was night.

"Too late. I already took care of all the prey." (Hifumi)

"Imeraria-sama is?" (Midas)

"She's inside. Watch your steps as there are corpses scattered all over." (Hifumi)

While wondering what his kindness

was about, Midas entered the room. Though simple, the bedroom was provided with high-class furnishing. A great number of blood-stained corpses were spread on the floor.

Even the miserable figure of the queen is amongst those.

“Hear about the circumstances from Imeraria. I am off.” (Hifumi)

“You are off, you say? Where to?” (Sabnak)

“My distinctive job.” (Hifumi)

Seeing off Hifumi, who was passing through the corridor while leisurely shouldering the katana, Sabnak shook his head with a face full of astonishment.

“Haven’t the knight units been decreased around half with today? No, wait, the Second is absent, so the decrement is only one-third.” (Sabnak)

“Are you joking around in this situation? Please guide Imeraria-sama to the spare bedroom. We will keep guarding without change until morning.” (Midas)

“... Though it would be nice if it were just joking around.” (Sabnak)

Someone’s scream could be heard from the other side of the corridor.

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“Thus, since Hifumi-sama will be cleaning the trash out within the king’s castle after this, please make

you rounds so that the trash doesn't escape." (Origa)

Suddenly coming to their office and even detaining those, with the exception of the knights on duty, wanting to go back, against their will, Origa gave the gathered knights of the Third Knight Unit an order under the pretense of it being an explanation.

Because all of them were aware what kind of standing the girl in front of them has, they abide obediently, as resisting it would be unwise, while having disgruntled thoughts.

"That... it is already time for me to go home..." (Female Knight)

“Not allowed.” (Origa)

“Not allowed you say…” (Female Knight)

With her colleagues consoling her to give up, the female knight sat down in resignation.

“Currently the castle is divided into the prince faction and the princess faction. It looks like the First Knight Unit is part of the prince faction. Going by Hifumi-sama’s explanation, it seems to be very likely that the First Knight Unit will move tonight in order to assassinate the princess.” (Origa)

“Whaat!”

“I don’t believe such foolishness. Not even as a joke. They are in the

position of protecting the royal castle."

Origa claps her hands in order to calm down the bewildered knights.

"At any rate, seeing that Hifumi-sama decided to make Imeraria-sama the queen, they will simply die if they turn hostile. As for the Third Knight Unit, you were given the role of restraining those trying to flee from the castle. Your location will be even further outside than the castle's gate, which is guarded by the First Knight Unit." (Origa)

Opening the iron-ribbed fan, she had retrieved from within her bosom, Origa is slowly swinging it for the sake of fanning the face

while talking.

“B-But…”

“Even if it is Lord Tohno’s instruction, behaving as if hostile to a fellow knight unit…”

Origa interrupted the mumbling words of refusal with the closing of her iron-ribbed fan.

“As if hostile, that’s not it, you already are hostile to them. Or are you one of the prince’s faction? In short, as far as Hifumi-sama is concerned, you already are an enemy…” (Origa)

Seeing the hand holding the iron-ribbed fan being filled with strength at a glance, the elder knights went out ahead.

“Please wait! I will follow Imeraria-sama’s will. Haven’t you called Midas’ group for that sake as well?”

“That’s right. Besides, there isn’t any need to fight. During the time Hifumi-sama cleans the castle’s interior, it will be alright as long as no people enter or leave the castle. Also, please tidy up tomorrow morning.” (Origa)

Any more sweetness dripping out from Origa’s cheerful smiling will be dreadful, the knights thought.

“Thanks to Hifumi-sama, the Third Knight Unit will take care of Imeraria very closely within the king’s castle. You will likely reach the point of being treated as very influential war potential.” (Origa)

“In addition,” Origa continues.

“If you are able to accept making an effort here in doing your job properly with a mindset of cooperation, then Hifumi-sama will kindly overlook the actions of the Third Knight Unit the other day, understand?” (Origa)

‘Though I won’t forgive you’, Origa’s eyes told them.

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In this way the Third Knight Unit got stuck with standing watch at the royal castle without a wink of sleep until the next morning.

Chapter 48: Night Of Fire

“Civil official instructional education... you say?” (Representative)

In the room arranged for the purpose of training and meetings for the civil official slaves at the mansion of the Lord of Fokalore, the representatives of the cities, that had changed allegiance from Vichy to Orsongrande, gathered.

In front of their eyes the civil official slave Caim, with a sullen looking face, was continuing to explain indifferently. Next to him Brokra sat acting as a clerk.

“That’s right. The territorial principal Earl Tohno has said to gather from each city a selected few in order for them to receive the same education we received. They will be taught in general subjects and practical application. Ah, all of you gentlemen, the town mayors, who are participating at today’s assembly, please organize a gathering at each respective city after this and together with the civil official candidates, that will be elected, you will receive the same education alongside.” (Caim)

As they were summoned by a new influential person, the city representatives were scared within their mind whether their life would be in danger. They were relieved to hear that their own position would

be preserved to a certain extent.

But, with the continuing words of Caim, whose facial expression didn't change, that sense of security was blown away.

"By the way, if your grades are bad, you will be removed from your post without any useless discussions. Since we have prepared something like replacements of your posts in case you are lacking the ability for your duty, I'd like you to give me your acknowledgement in advance, please." (Caim)

There is a considerable number amongst the representatives, who took over the post of representative by mere succession. Of course there are also some who managed their

assignment properly, but likewise there are those who rested on their laurels coming with the status.

Seemingly having an idea, there were several amongst them drenched in sweat turning pale.

“Please stay in Fokalore for the duration of one month. You can be relieved because the representative proxies will dispatch personnel and soldiers for field work as well as recruitment during your time in Fokalore. We have prepared appropriate accommodations for you on our side. Please hand in an application beforehand, if you wish to stay in an inn of your choice. We will distribute the blank application form later.” (Caim)

While reading the written down notes, Caim spoke in a smooth and clear voice.

“Are there any inquiries up until this point?” (Caim)

“I wanted to take it home and examine it temporarily, but...” (Representative)

A single person, who became pale earlier during the talk about the grading, nervously made such proposal.

Hearing that question, Caim looks directly into they eyes of that man expressionlessly.

(Ah, this is bad.) (Brokra)

Brokra saw the occasions when

Caim's habit came out.

"Ano..." (Representative)

As the man says uncomfortably due to Caim's motionless staring, Caim opened his mouth.

"In what way do you want to examine it? Currently I am telling you the Objective and Order from your feudal lord, who is also your Lord and my master. If you take it home, what will you examine there? Will you abide or reject it? In other words, you and your city have no other choice but to swear absolute allegiance towards not only Orsongrande but also Earl Tohno." (Caim)

"I-It's dif..." (Representative)

“I will fully convey this matter to Hifumi-sama. Although I don’t know in what kind of manner that gentleman will confirm your loyalty... I am well aware that if it was his words, you should be resolved for your city’s scale to decrease by around half.” (Caim)

As he is speaking of the details monotonously and boringly, not only the man he is looking at, but even the representatives in the surrounding are trembling in fear.

“Yo-You’ve misunderstood me! Please forgive my humble self!” (Representative)

“Misunderstanding, it is? I will use my privilege of properly record that you have no more than this level of

situation perception ability. Naturally, it will be treated as primary factor for the minus points for the over-all judgement. And also, please do understand that from now on all of your interactions and actions hereafter will definitely be transmitted to us and we will pay attention to them." (Caim)

Brokra threw a fleeting glance at Caim giving a profound proclamation while the man is bowing, almost about to rub his head on the floor. He knew this was also going to be his record.

"Everyone, I hope that you very carefully choose the words you use as well. Our intention is to have honest and open-minded interactions, but you won't be

forgiven if you decide to antagonize us. You are not permitted to obstruct the administration of the territory. And, although the new Lord you have chosen is very tolerant towards loyal subordinates, he is absolutely unforgiving towards his opponents. Please bear in mind that a single word can cause you to lose your life, and that is no exaggeration either." (Caim)

There wasn't a single person opening their mouth when Caim asked "Are there any other questions to be addressed?"

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The Captain of the First Knight Unit is Ribezal (T/N: >> Ribezaru). He waited for Deumus, who went to

kill Imeraria, in his personal office within the castle. Vice-Captain Rangul (T/N: >> Ranguru <<), matching Deumus in rank, waits on his side.

“So late…” (Ribezal)

It is only the assassination of a single girl who lives in a room inside the same castle. Even if Deumus had some reluctance and hesitation, the time, by when he should have finished it, had passed a long time ago.

What worries him even more is that the chamberlain couldn’t find the figure of the queen in her room when he went there. Even though they are currently searching for her, they haven’t found her yet.

“Maybe some kind problem is occurring?” (Rangul)

He considers it for a short while. Although around ten knights of the First Knight Unit are assigned for duty next, it will be fine for half of them going to check, I guess.

“Possibly. Take some people and go have a look.” (Ribezal)

Just when Rangul wanted to try to do something in reply, there is the sound of knocking.

“Did he come?” (Ribezal)

However, even as they are waiting, the door isn’t opening.

“What’s the matter?” (Rangul)

Approaching the door, in the moment Rangul's hand grabbed the knob, a blade penetrated the wooden door. It pierced Rangul's head.

Extracting the blade, a *byu*, indistinguishable whether voice or sound, could be heard. Rangul, trying to cling to the door, collapsed.

And then, Hifumi entered by destroying the door with a kick sending the door and the corpse of Rangul flying.

"It's you, bastard... !" (Ribezal)

Ribezal is recognizing Hifumi's face. He happened to be present during the audience when the king

was killed.

“Although I came to see since I was certain there was a presence here, what room is this?” (Hifumi)

Surveying the room, Hifumi heedlessly asked.

“This is my, the First Knight Unit’s captain’s, room. Why are you here, bastard?” (Ribezal)

Holding a spear, he vigilantly sets up his stance facing Hifumi.

“It is a major cleanup. Things don’t progress too well, if there is too much noise.” (Hifumi)

“Don’t think it will be that easy!” (Ribezal)

Following Ribezal's roar, two magicians jumped out from their hiding. With the same timing they shot a fireball.

"Oh, it is the first time I have seen fire users!" (Hifumi)

While saying those words in delight, Hifumi advanced forward and let the fireballs fly by.

Ribezal's spear is thrust out at that place.

"Nuu!" (Ribezal)

"It's a nice thrust." (Hifumi)

The spearhead grazed Hifumi's shoulder and ripped up his dougi, but it hadn't reached his body.

In correspondence, the katana was calmly swung horizontally as well. Ribezal swiftly drew back and the katana only cut air.

Ignoring another spear thrust, Hifumi leaped and chopped down one of the magicians.

“Don’t play with fire indoors. That’s thoughtless.” (Hifumi)

The magician, cut with a single stroke from the top of his shoulders, has died instantly.

“Shit!” (Magician)

As the other let loose a second fireball, Hifumi, turning around, cut the fireball in two.

“Oh, I took a chance and tested it

and see there, I can slice it apart after all." (Hifumi)

While wondering somewhat whether you can still call this a katana any more, he stabs the heart of the frightened magician.

The moment he brings down the blade sideways, avoiding getting it stuck in a bone, the spear approaches from the flank with an ideal timing.

"Uuh-oh" (Hifumi)

While feeling reluctant to respond to the thrust, Hifumi fell over parting with the katana in his hand.

Furthermore, as Hifumi is tumbling on the rolling over again and again, Ribezal assaults him with the spear.

Hifumi, who quickly rose to a crouch on his knee, grabbed the spear and drove its pummel into the abdomen of Ribezal in reverse.

“Gufuu!” (Ribezal)

Letting go of his spear, Ribezal collapses.

When he rises quickly to his feet in spite of coughing violently, Hifumi is wielding his spear in front of his eyes.

“It is a nice spear. The balance is great and its weight is just right as well.” (Hifumi)

Having his personal spear thrust at him, Ribezal backs off.

“Do you kill unarmed opponents?”

(Ribezal)

“What are you saying?” (Hifumi)

Just as Hifumi spoke in astonishment, several knights rushed into the room.

“The noise from just now!” (Knight A)

“Are you safe, Captain?” (Knight B)

Although the knights were taken aback the second they saw the Vice-Captain’s corpse and Hifumi holding the spear, they immediately set up and confronted Hifumi. You could say, as one would have predicted.

“You bastard, what are you doing here?!” (Knight C)

Without replying, after Hifumi spun the spear and determinedly knocked the jaw of Ribezal with the pummel making him fall over, he struck the leading knight's eyes, throat and both feet, the four places with no armor, in a flash.

Even as the knight died, gushing forth blood from his entire body, the surrounding knights didn't understand what had happened. Moreover, Hifumi even ran the spearhead into the knight's throat, standing cross-ways, and cut it open.

"Why are you standing around doing nothing? Since you were taught you how to use a spear, get over here quickly." (Hifumi)

Losing their temper, the knights thrust their spears with all their strength. While skilfully averting the united spearheads, one after another is falling down spurting blood out.

“There aren’t only thrusts in the spear art!!” (Hifumi)

Closing in onto his opponent while repelling a single stab, Hifumi rams the pummel into his opponent’s foot as he pushes his shoulder toppling him over. Rotating the spear, Hifumi reaps through his neck.

Moreover, as the next opponent attacks, Hifumi turns his spear, entangles the approaching weapon and disarms him. The opponent,

being dumbfounded of having lost his weapon, died with a single lunge.

Within the unfolding blood-stained tragedy, Ribezal, whose jaw had been struck, shook off the twinkling stars in front of his eyes by swinging his head while he advanced to a corner of the room on unsteady feet.

As he presses his hand on one part of the wall, a hole, barely wide enough for a single person, opens. Ribezal crawled into it.

Though he feels the presence of Ribezal escaping, Hifumi brushes away the all the spears held at the ready of the First Knight Unit's reinforcements that had come from

somewhere while deciding Maa, it's fine to ignore him. If the First Knight Unit and the prince link up as-is, it will save him the hassle of expressly calling them back if Ribezal reports the current situation.

If he rallies his colleagues of the First Knight Unit that aren't here during his escape, the result will be that it will be split into: the princess faction, centering on the Third Knight Unit, will take a defending stance with the castle as base, if the numbers of the First Knight Unit are few, or the prince faction, centering on the First and Second Knight Unit, will have to start by capturing the base, if the numbers of the First Knight Unit are many.

If that's how it turns out, they will make frantic efforts to fight with each other, I guess.

"Well now, it's time to finish the cleaning soon, right?" (Hifumi)

As Hifumi motivated himself with a nice smile in a state of being soaked in the blood of his victims, the knights didn't understand the reason and panicked.

Parting with one-third of the First Knight Unit's personnel this night, half of the remaining people surrendered and swore allegiance to the princess faction and the other half chased after Ribezal who left the capital behind.

"With this, can't you say that only

the number of knights in the prince faction and the princess faction roughly balances out? If there aren't many on the side attacking the castle, the balance will be bad." (Hifumi)

Hifumi leaked out his dissatisfaction as it became the next day. No one except Origa approved.

◆◇◆◇◆

Morning has come. The civil officials and nobles, who attended as they aren't live-ins, were puzzled over the heavy mood within the castle.

Confirming to which Knight Unit each knight belongs without making a single exception,

stretchers were carried in from a separate entrance one by one and something was carried out.

“Did something happen?” (Official)

A single female civil official, commuting to work, visited a knight doing inspections. The greeted knight, with darkly shadowed eyes, replied blankly,

“Just a little. They were killing each other during the night.” (Knight)

“Eeh?!” (Official)

“Ah, it’s safe already. Lord Tohno finished it all.” (Knight)

“But, take care to not utter thoughtless things.” The knight warns her to pay attention since she

could literally be beheaded.

Raising a sudden shriek after seeing a stretcher covered with a cloth over there, she could see the head of a person tumbling down at that place.

“A head...” (Official)

The civil official, who had become ghastly pale, tried to think one way or another about the reason for the confrontation. Being worked to death with the after-disposal of the mayhem, the knights are stuck with doing overtime within the castle, that had a smell of blood drifting all over.

“And, is Imeraria-sama safe?” (Official)

“Of course, she has the Knight-sama with the slender sword at her side, she hasn’t a single scratch.” (Knight)

While the civil official looks relieved and says “That’s good”, the knight added in his mind “At least not on her body.”

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Getting through the overnight tragedy, Imeraria completes the organisation of Orsongrande. The main part of the nobles also move from the prince faction to the princess faction. Many of the nobles rushed, pretending to do courtesy calls, to visit Imeraria for the sake of pledging their allegiance to her.

Subduing the feeling of boredom, Imeraria handles the nobles coming to tell her that she can depend on them from now on. In her back Hifumi's figure was visible brightly smiling in absolute satisfaction.

After several meetings with the nobles ended, Hifumi told her that he will leave the castle soon.

"The basic preparations have been completed. Do your best in forming your own future." (Hifumi)

"... Where are you off to this time?" (Imeraria)

"I will go visit Vichy. After that... you will be the one deciding that, no? See ya." (Hifumi)

After seeing off Hifumi's group, she

entrusts her back to the deep chair and shuts her eyes.

“It’s the real deal from here on out...” (Imeraria)

During the consultation with the prime minister, we have decided to hold the enthronement in the near future. The consequence will be that the news will be circulated to my brother, I guess. I wanted to lay the foundation as new queen, as official successor, before Prince Ayperos returns to the capital.

If I possess overwhelming authority, I will conversely be able to protect Ayperos, I hope, Imeraria is estimating. For the sake of that, I must avoid the quagmire of civil war.

“For that reason, I have to get strong myself first…” (Imeraria)

Thinking of the people who had died, Imeraria persuaded herself to apologize after everything ends. (T/N: *wonders whether there will be anyone left to apologize to, after everything ends*)

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